LPG Distributor for Bhikiyasain in Almora District (U.P.)

*211. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Questions 4088 and 1196 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July and 9th December, 1998, respectively and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that till date the proposed LPG distributor has not been selected for Bhikiyasain in Almora;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Oil Companies and Dealer Selection Board were given instructions to expedite the selection;

(d) if so, when these instructions were given; and

(e) whether Government propose to find out the reasons for inordinate delay and fix responsibility in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) Location Bhikiyasain was advertised under Physically Handicapped (Woman) category for setting up LPG distributorship. Applications were forwarded to the Dealer Selection Board in January, 1999 for selection of the distributor. As the functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards was kept in abeyance since April, 1999, interview for the location has not been held. The Dealer Selection Boards have recently been dissolved by the Government. The constitution of New Dealer Selection Boards is under consideration. The process of selection of distributor will start again thereafter.

Developmental Activities in Naxal-Hit areas of A.P.

*212. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted an action plan for developmental activities in naxal hit areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details of the plan under scrutiny; and

(c) the amount proposed to be sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a three year Action Plan (1996-97 to 1998-99) for strengthening police force and development in Naxalite affected areas at a total cost of Rs. 1299.17 crore. The Action Plan was examined keeping in view similar problems being experienced by the States of Orissa, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh would have to dovetail their existing development programmes in Naxalite affected areas and approach the concerned Central Ministries for assistance under different Central schemes being administered by them.

Maternity Leave

*213. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Paediatricians had suggested the Fifth Central Pay Commission for grant of six months maternity leave to women Government employees bearing upto two children, followed by a period of half-day half-pay in the interest of the newly born-babies-who represent as the futher citizens of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission in the light thereof and the decision of Government thereon alongwith the reasons for not accepting the recommendations of the Paediatric Specialists in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Details of suggestions made by the various organisations to the Fifth Central Pay Commission are not available. Accordingly, it is not possible to confirm or provide the details of the suggestions made by National Council of